

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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R 082115Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4467

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, DR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT REFUSES TO PERMIT UNIVERSITY MARCH

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS CONFIRMED DIRECTLY TO RECTOR TOLENTINO DIPP THE GOVERNMENT'S PROHIBITION OF PROPOSED "MARCH OF SILENCE" IN BEHALF OF A CAMPAIGN FOR A HIGHER BUDGET FOR AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF SANTO DOMINGO (UASD). UNIVERSITY HAD PLANNED MARCH FOR TODAY THROUGH DOWNTOWN AREA OF SD AND HAD REITERATED ASSURANCES THAT ONLY UNIVERSITY FACULTY, NO STUDENTS, WOULD PARTICIPATE AND THAT NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS WOULD OCCUR. DESPITE THESE ASSURANCES NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF MAJOR GENERAL NEIT NIVAR AND SECRETARY OF INTERIOS AND POLICE MAJOR GENERAL PEREZ Y PEREZ HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED UASD THAT MARCH WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED. BALAGUER'S DECLARATION WAS IN DIRECT REPLY TO RECTOR TOLENTINO'S APPEAL.

2. IN HIS MESSAGE PRESIDENT INFORMED RECOTR THAT UASD IS FREE TO "HAVE AS MANY MARCHES AS IT WISHES, SURROUNDED BY ALL THE PUBLICITY APPARATUS IT FEELS TO BE CONVENIENT AS LONG AS IT CONFINES THESE ACTIVITIES TO THE CAMPUS." NOT ONLY WOULD MARCH OFF CAMPUS INCONVENIENCE THE CITIZENRY BY DISRUPTING TRAFFIC, SAID THE PRESIDENT, BUT IT WOULD PRODUCE NO PRACTICAL RESULTS. POINTING OUT THAT FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IS UASD INSISTENCE ON SATURATION OF COUNTRY WITH

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PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE, MOST OF WHOM ARE POORLY PREPARED TO

BE OF SERVICE TO SOCIETY, PRESIDENT SAID THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES AND UNDER NO PRESSURE, NO MATTER HOW SERIOUS, WOULD HE TAKE MEASURES HE CONSIDERED DAMAGING TO THE FUTURE OF THE REPUBLIC. HE DID, HOWEVER, SAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACT TO REPAIR PLUMBING FACILITIES ON CAMPUS AND WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE NEEDS OF THE STUDENT COMMISSARY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ACTUALLY STUDENTS AND WHO ARE MOST NEEDY. OTHER PROBLEMS OF NEW CONSTRUCTION AND OF GENERAL INCREASE IN UASD BUDGET WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY.

3. POLICE ARE OUT IN NUMBERS TODAY AROUND PERIMETER OF UASD AND WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER UNIIVERSITY OFFICIALS WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST STRONG STUDENT AND MILITANT FACULTY PRESSURES TO DEFY GOVERNMENT PROBIHITION AND ATTEMPT CONDUCT MARCH AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.
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